



THE HURRICANE FORECAST

November 2024 Volume 14 • Issue 4

Publication for the Parents, Students, Staff & Community of Mount Dora High School

"It is going to be a great year in Cane Country as we strive to keep MDHS Empowered for Excellence!"

Who's Who at MDHS

Principal: Kyle Bracewell

Assistant Principals: Mike Hay, Kimberly Walker, Dr. Catherine Slack and Stephanie Bence

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Mental Health Liason: Kim Capstraw

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Stacy Carver and Amy Mikler

Main Office:

Deb Pfiffner and Jenn Cerce

School Resource Officer:

Cpl. Brooke Mason, MDPD
Officer Robert Thomas, MDPD

School Guardian:

Stive Colas

Contact Us

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700 N. Highland Street
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A Fresh New Hallway

by Lera Ambray

Students worked diligently, decorating for Homecoming's Hallway Wars. Each class decided on its theme. They ranged from "Disco" to "Monsters Inc" to "Miami". The creative rivalry was real making it a hard call for the judges to choose a winner.

"The fish" was freshman Weston Floyd's favorite part of his class's hallway. The Student Government Assistant Secretary stated, "The theme was Miami Nights." The most challenging part of decorating the hallway was the painting.

Seniors made the best of their challenges. Michael Dooley said balloons would pop every time they tried putting them in the arch. It was scaring some of his fellow senior workers so badly that they screamed. So they decided, since their theme was Monster's Inc., that they were collecting screams. Roz would be proud of them.

The results of who won the Hallway Decorating Contest were revealed on October 3rd and were as follows: Seniors placed 1st, juniors placed 2nd, and sophomores placed 3rd.



Photo Credit: Ms. Stephanie Bence, Assistant Principal

Pictured above: A monster hung from the women's restroom and was part of the seniors' hallway decor.



Photo Credits: Mattie Alford & Lera Ambray

From left to right, top to bottom: freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior



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WELCOME TO CAT 5 NEWS

Welcome to Mount Dora High School's first issue of Cat 5 News: MDHS's place for current events! We look forward to reporting positive events and people on campus. Each issue will be digitally distributed on the last school day of every month. This particular issue's focus is the delightful doings during homecoming week. We hope you'll find it an enjoyable read!

We welcome any good news you have, so please let us know about the positive activities, behavior, and fun happening around campus. Beginning with the January issue we will start posting a Letters to the Editor page. So, stay tuned to for where to submit your letters. We are also open to suggestions and any significant sightings you may have around campus. Just contact Ms. Griffith. We also ask that you be patient with us as we navigate news reporting. We're new here.

Board Approved: 02.27.2023

2024/25 Student Calendar

(180 Days)

School Month			Student Days
NOVEMBER	November 11 November 25-29	Veterans Day/Student Holiday (Monday) Thanksgiving Holiday/Student Holiday (Monday-Friday)	15
DECEMBER	December 20 December 23-31	End of Second Grading Period (Friday) Winter Break/Student Holiday (Monday- Tuesday)	15 Total Days 44

2025

JANUARY	January 1 January 2 January 3 January 6 January 20	New Years Day/ Student Holiday Non-Student Day (Wednesday) Non-Student Day/Professional Development Day(Thursday) Non-Student Day / Teacher Work Day (Friday) Classes Resume/Third Grading Period Begins (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday/Student Holiday (Monday)	19
FEBRUARY	February 17	Presidents' Day/Student Holiday (Monday)	19
MARCH	March 6 March 7 March 10-14 March 17	End of Third Grading Period (Thursday) Non-Student Day/Teacher Work Day (Friday) Spring Break/Student Holiday (Monday-Friday) Classes Resume/Fourth Grading Period Begins (Monday)	4 Total Days 42 11
APRIL	April 18	Non-Student Day (Friday)	21
MAY	May 26 May 29	Memorial Day/ Student Holiday(Monday) Last Day of Classes/End of Fourth Grading Period (Thursday)	20 Total Days 52
		Storm Make-up Days will be determined as needed	180

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Peppy Participation

by Lera Amhray

The school was in high spirits throughout the week, and the pep rally epitomized the enthusiasm of all our homecoming happenings. The entire rally screamed, clapped, and cheered at everyone who participated in this year's rally: the musicians, steppers, cheerleaders, and the football team. Multiple individuals were crowned and got to play a game of musical chairs. Two tug-of-war games occurred: football team vs. the cheerleaders and the juniors and sophomores vs. the seniors and freshman. The football team won the first game while the juniors and sophomores won the second.

Finally, the event wrapped up with everyone doing the "Cupid Shuffle" by Cupid, and the "Cha Cha Slide" by DJ Casper.

Mount Dora High School's Positive Peers

MDHS has a positive referral program where one can visit the Hub and brag about helpful folks on campus. And boy, do we have a lot of benevolent teenagers here at Mount Dora High School. Two students mentioned in the hub are Michael Dooley and Logan Roper.



Senior Michael Dooley is always helpful when it comes to academics. He is an SGA rep and has started his career aspirations by taking dual enrollment courses. This will help when he attends Florida Atlantic University in the fall.

Dooley works at the Stoney Brook McDonald's; however, his favorite thing to do in his spare time is hang out with his friends at the school sports game. He states when he goes to school in Boca he plans on staying in touch long-distance with those high school friends he's grown close to.

Freshman Logan Roper was also voted a positive person on campus. Roper enjoys his agriculture class, especially working with the animals. In his spare time, Roper plays video games with his cat, Gigabyte. His favorite is Warzone.

Michael Dooley is dressed for success.



From left to right: The Freshmen class in AP Human Geography, all in teal for Color Wars, a freshman being lifted up by multiple students during the flash mob, and the cheerleaders fighting against the football team in tug of war.



"The Hurricane Forecast"

November 2024

Issue #4

Published Five Times Per Year

Mount Dora High School

700 North Highland Avenue

Mount Dora, FL 32757

Homecoming Parade

Photo Credits: Emily Ngo



Top to bottom:
A banner introducing
the marching band and
the marching band

ROTC members
carrying the
American flag and
Florida's flag

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THE STUDENT SPIRIT

by Emily Ngo

Free candy, cheers, and loud music! The Homecoming parade was a blast! Each float in the parade embodied the group's collective personalities as they rode through the sea of student canes. From Cross Country to Step to Art, many organizations participated. "It was fun, especially at the end we started singing Party in the USA," stated Lera Ambray, a participant on the freshman float.



From top to bottom:
freshmen,
sophomore, and
senior floats

Photo Credits:
Emily Ngo



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Mt. Dora High School ATHLETICS

2024-2025



Athletic Department Contacts

Athletic Department	Name	Email
Administrator of Athletics	Mike Hay	haym@lake.k12.fl.us
Athletic Director	Charlie Cerney	cerneyc@lake.k12.fl.us
Athletic Trainer	Wesley Arrington	arringtonw@lake.k12.fl.us

Fall Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Bowling (B/G)	Miriam Mcevoy	mcevoym@lake.k12.fl.us
Cross Country (B)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Cross Country (G)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Football	Luke Hutchinson	hutchinsonl@lake.k12.fl.us
Golf (B/G)	Ted Dwyer	dwert@lake.k12.fl.us
Spirit Cheer	Lizz Schlotter	schlottere@lake.k12.fl.us
Swimming (B/G)	Jeff Service	leahservice@yahoo.com
Volleyball	Kevin Gifford	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us

Winter Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Weightlifting (G)	Kia Larkin	larkink@lake.k12.fl.us
Soccer (B)	Ryan Eshbaugh	eshbaughR@lake.k12.fl.us
Soccer (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us
Basketball (G)	Kevin Gifford	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us
Basketball (B)	John Liptak	liptakj@lake.k12.fl.us
Wrestling (B/G)	David Kemmy	Kemmyd@lake.k12.fl.us

Spring Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Weightlifting (B)	Luke Hutchinson	Porhc@lake.k12.fl.us
Softball	Stive Colas	colass@lake.k12.fl.us
Track (B)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Track (G)	Susan Heggie	heggies@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (B)	Brennan Guido	guidob@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (G)	TBD	
Baseball	Mike Matulia	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us
Flag Football (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us



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HOMECOMING

Week

GAME DAY

My Homecoming Experience

by Zayda White



Going shopping, and dressing up are two of the things that I enjoy, so when I found out that I was on the Court, the first thing that came to my mind wasn't excitement from making homecoming royalty, it was the excitement of knowing a shopping spree was close by!

Honestly, after that, it became a challenge. I heard and witnessed firsthand what it felt like to be talked about based on your skin color. During that time I felt alone. Like I had to do this by myself. There was also a short period when I questioned whether I deserved my spot. But my mother was excited for me and reminded me of the community I was representing. More importantly, she opened my eyes to all the people who did support me!

The Hurricanes blew the Pirates off the field with an overwhelming 36 zip for our homecoming game on Friday, October 4. Among the amazing plays Tanner Waring made a touch down right before halftime. Tymir Gaines three rushing touch downs and Josh Collins had a pick 6. The stands were

filled with MDHS fans. "The team was field smart" stated Keelayna Cochran. She and fellow cheerleader Zayda White claim that because the homecoming game was on the line the team was motivated to win. And they surely did.

Regardless, I still wouldn't trade this experience for the entire world. I'm forever grateful to everyone who had my back and helped me through the rough times. And I'm grateful to the amazing girls on the Court with me. Many of them helped me feel comfortable in every way! Standing on the field during the crowning was an amazing feeling, and seeing my family in the stands from down on the field gave me a sense of belonging and pride. In the end, to me, my family being there to support me was the only win I needed that night.



Jordan takes down a Pirates player.



Coaches and players proudly look on the scoreboard at the end of the game.



Luca Celis and Sydney Guthrie, our new king and queen, beam with pride.



Tanner Waring makes a tide-changing catch.

Girls on the Court waiting on the field to see who will be crowned queen.



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Homecoming Dance

by Jay/an Roberts

Students were "fam up in the club" jumping up and down as the DJ played Bossman Dlow, NBA Youngboy, and many more favorites. Homecoming night is one of the best nights of the year, second only to prom, and Mrs. Schulz, who planned it, did not disappoint. The decorations, the theme, and all the colors and flying confetti added to the energetic vibe. A highlight of the night was the rotating camera where anyone could take pictures or even a video to bring home as a memory. Students said this year's homecoming was even better than last year's. "It was a great success with few negatives," Student Briana Isano said, "The vibe was completely different. It was so much better than last year".

All students had a blast, but more importantly they spent time with their friends making the night even better.

Photo Credits: Taniya Spearman, Oriah Taylor, Shylee Curtiss, Fabianna Ferlicchia, & Alexandra Johnston



2024/2025

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SGA's Future

by Lera Ambray

"I love it." Jacob Olson and Harper Bracewell, President and Vice President of the Freshmen SGA, gave their thoughts and advice. Harper recommends running for the positions you're interested in. "Even if you lose, it's still a great opportunity, and being a representative is also fun." "Social media campaign is really big," the president replied, "It's bigger than the posters hanging up around the school." Their future plans involve changing the school and making it better as well as growing with the program in the years to come.



Ms. Minnig and MDHS's future head cheerleader and SGA Rep, Lani Griffith.

A Swimmer's Advice

by Alexandra Johnston



Swim Captain, Franco Garcia gave wise words about any advice he had for new swimmers. "The only way to get better at swimming is by swimming. It's a mental game, just swim more, think less honestly." He proceeded to go on about singing in his head during a 500-meter swim. Franco's words truly are the definition of good advice. His words work for anyone, from starting swimmers to even advanced swimmers.



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